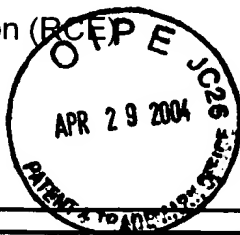


RCE/2653 #

Request
For
Continued Examination (RCE)
TransmittalAddress to:
Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/748,506
Filing Date	December 26, 2000
First Named Inventor	Koji Hayashi et al.
Group Art Unit	2653
Examiner Name	Chu, K.
Attorney Docket Number	10449-032001

#18
MDS
5.6.04**This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.**

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

- Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s)

 - ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendment filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
 - ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - ☐ Other _____
 - ☐ Enclosed
 - ☐ Amendment/Reply
 - ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - ☐ Other _____
- Miscellaneous**

 - ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
 - ☐ Other _____
- Fee** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

 - ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1050
 - ☐ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
 - ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
 - ☒ Other Any deficiencies
 - ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 770 enclosed
 - ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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Technology Center 2600

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Frank R. Occhiuti	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	35,306
Signature	<i>Frank R. Occhiuti</i>	Date	4/26/04

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Michelle M. Buckley
Signature	<i>Michelle M. Buckley</i>
Date	April 26, 2004